

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 769

Recognizing the benefits of service-learning as a teaching strategy to effectively engage youth in the community and classroom, and expressing support for the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Mr. PLATTS (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the benefits of service-learning as a teaching strategy to effectively engage youth in the community and classroom, and expressing support for the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge.

Whereas service-learning is a teaching method that enhances academic learning by integrating classroom content with relevant activities aimed at addressing identified community or school needs;

Whereas service-learning has been used both in school and community-based settings as a teaching strategy to enhance learning by building on youth experiences, granting youth a voice in learning, and making instructional goals and objectives more relevant to youth;

Whereas service-learning has been identified as an effective tool in addressing the Nation's dropout epidemic by making education more hands-on and relevant, and has been especially effective in addressing the epidemic with respect to disadvantaged youth;

Whereas service-learning is proven to provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged and at-risk youth by building self-confidence, which often translates into overall academic and personal success;

Whereas service-learning provides not only meaningful experiences, but a greater quantity and quality of interactions between youth and potential mentors in the community;

Whereas service-learning simultaneously empowers youth as actively engaged learners, citizens, and contributors to the community;

Whereas youth engaged in service-learning provide critical service to the community by addressing a variety of needs in towns, cities, and States, including needs such as tutoring young children, elderly care, community nutrition, disaster relief, environmental stewardship, financial education, public safety, and a host of other needs;

Whereas far reaching and diverse research base shows that service-learning enhances the academic, career, cognitive, and civic development of kindergarten through 12th-grade students, and of higher education students;

Whereas service-learning strengthens and increases the number of partnerships among institutions of higher education, local schools, and communities, which strengthens communities and improves academic learning;

Whereas service-learning programs unleash a multitude of skilled and enthusiastic college students to serve in the communities surrounding their colleges;

Whereas service-learning programs engage students in actively addressing and solving pressing community issues and are strengthening the ability of nonprofit organizations to meet community needs;

Whereas Learn and Serve America, a program established under subtitle B of title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12521 et seq.), is the only federally funded program dedicated to service-learning and engages over 1,100,000 youth in service-learning annually;

Whereas Learn and Serve America is a highly cost-effective program, averaging approximately \$25 per participant and leveraging \$1 for every Federal dollar invested; and

Whereas the National Learn and Serve Challenge is an annual event that is taking place this year from October 5 through October 11, 2009, that spotlights the value of service-learning to young people as well as schools, college campuses, and communities, encourages others to launch service-learning activities, and increases recognition of Learn and Serve America: Now, therefore, be it:

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the benefits of service-learning
3 in—

4 (A) enriching and enhancing academic out-
5 comes for youth;

6 (B) engaging youth in positive experiences
7 in the community; and

- 1 (C) encouraging youth to make more con-
2 structive choices with regards to their lives;
- 3 (2) encourages schools, school districts, college
4 campuses, community-based organizations, non-
5 profits, and faith-based organizations to work to-
6 wards providing youth with more service-learning op-
7 portunities; and
- 8 (3) expresses support for the goals of the Na-
9 tional Learn and Serve Challenge.

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